

Steamtown

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Steamtown National Historic Site



RAILFAN TOURS #2786 “Good Vibrations”



History and Restoration

The “Good Vibrations” started its railroad career as a 123-seat commuter passenger coach built by the Pullman Company at Worcester, Massachusetts in 1955 for the Long Island Railroad as #2618.

It was originally built as an electric trailer car with motors in the trucks that drew power from the LIRR’s third-rail system.



In 1975, the LIRR

converted the car into a push-pull

car by removing the motors and third-rail pick-up system, and adding head end power. At that time, its number was also changed to 2786. From that date forward, the car would be pulled by diesels. During this time they also changed the



Pullman Standard lounge car, 1950.

passenger seats from the “walk-over” type to stationary fiberglass and vinyl padded seats. In keeping with the fashion of the 1970s, carpeting was added to the walls from the window line to the ceiling. The car ran another 15 years in LIRR service.

In 1991 the car was purchased by its current owners, Railfan Tours Inc., and went through another transformation. The

coach’s interior was stripped and replaced with the following as a galley (kitchen) prep area:

- sink
- refrigerator
- freezer
- convection oven
- microwave



The prep galley of the “Good Vibrations” as it looks today.

The galley, complete with an 8-foot countertop and modern storage cabinets, is used for preparing light snacks and beverages.



A custom, hand-made 12-foot wood bar was constructed just outside of the galley prep area. The bar has been used for



The wooden bar in the "Good Vibrations".

serving a wide range of guests, from fine wine during "Murder Mystery" adventures, to that quintessential American favorite, hot dogs, during a visit from Santa Claus!

The seating in the car was changed from the 3-and-2 arrangement to comfy sofas and chairs that you might see in someone's living room; this living room, however, seats 24!

Passengers can observe beautiful scenery through one of the 24 safety-glass windows that replaced plastic panels. The carpeting was replaced, and now completely covers the floor and walls. A new heating and air-conditioning system was added, as well as a generator and electrical distribution system.



The car's exterior paint was sandblasted off and a new coat of DuPont Centari paint was added. Most of this work was accomplished during a 6-week period in 1992 when the owners, family and friends, and railcar contractor "Star Trak", worked 16-hour days! Since that time the car has traveled tens of thousands of miles from New Jersey to Iowa to Niagara Falls, Canada, and everywhere in between.



The interior of the #2786 when in service as a commuter coach.

The car was a featured "First Class" coach on the "Iron Horse Rambles" during the late 1990s, pulled by the famous Chesapeake & Ohio #614. The "Good Vibrations" has traveled with several railroads, including the Delaware and Hudson, New York, Susquehanna and Western, Norfolk Southern, CSX Transportation, Toledo, Peoria and Western, Canadian Pacific, and others.



The interior of the "Good Vibrations" as it appears today.

The car has visited Steamtown NHS during previous "Special Event" weekends in the park. In summer 2003 the car was loaned to Steamtown NHS to help increase availability of first-class excursion seating, and to attempt to illustrate a more social atmosphere available on "extra fair" or "luxury" trains in the glory days of railroading.

Technical Specifications *(as provided by the owner)*

Car type: PT - 72C
Length: 82' 8" over pulling faces.
Height: 13' 7"
Width: 10' 1/8"
Weight: 113,000 lb.
Truck-types: 6"x11" Hyatt, roller-bearing
Brakes: 26c valve, clasp type with cast iron shoes, 2-10"x 8" cylinders per truck.

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